

Indiana's APIC Chapter Receives National Recognition

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Indiana Chapter 76 of APIC (Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.) has been honored as recipient of two Chapter Excellence Awards. The Indiana chapter was recognized at the APIC International Conference in San Antonio, Texas on June 9. APIC President, Barbara Soule, presented the 2003 Chapter Excellence Awards for *Strategic Alliances* and *Member Support and Organizational Excellence* to Tonya Heim, APIC Indiana President. Tonya is the Director of Quality Services/Compliance at St. Joseph's Hospital in Huntingburg, Indiana.

The *Strategic Alliances* award is given to the chapter that best demonstrates excellence in identifying, evaluating, and pursuing opportunities for synergistic alliances. Indiana's application submitted under this category emphasized:

- the chapter's involvement in bioterrorism planning throughout the State including their immediate past president, Vickie VanDeventer's inclusion on the Indiana Hospital Bioterrorism Planning Committee,
- collaboration with the Indiana State Department of Health to draft guidelines for multi-drug resistance,
- representation at the Indiana Hospital Association's Comparative Outcome Project Steering Committee,
- assembling a "Vendor Hall" at state and regional meetings, and
- partnering among regional association members and local health departments.

The *Member Support and Organizational Excellence* award is presented for excellence in providing support, recognition, and opportunities for professional growth and development of members as well as improvement of APIC. Some the activities, which were cited in this award application were:

- new member packets provided by the membership committee,
- availability of a website for resources and updates (www.apicin.com),
- publication of a newsletter entitled "Infection Reflections",
- regional meetings that provide opportunities for mentoring,
- two statewide meetings per year featuring national speakers and published in-state members, and
- a scholarship program for assistance to attend the international conference.

Chapter President Tonya Heim expressed that the awards were particularly gratifying because the award applications represented the ongoing work, which members have been doing for years. It was simply a matter of documenting those activities and compiling them into a successful award application. Each chapter is limited to applications in three categories per year.
